

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 20 has been amended to depend on Claim 4.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application.

REMARKS

The rejections of Claims 1-19¹ under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over US 5,881,201 (Khanarian), and of Claim 20 as unpatentable over Khanarian in view of JP 2000-13677 (JP '677), are respectfully traversed.

In response to Applicants' arguments in the previous response that Khanarian does not disclose or suggest "structurings," as that term would be understood herein, and that the meaning of structurings is defined in the specification herein at page 14, first full paragraph, the Examiner, in the Response to Arguments, referring to said page 14, finds "it is expressly stated that the structurings can be surface defects and the recited depth of 0.1-1000 microns is understood to be part of the defect from the manufacturing process" and that Applicants have failed to establish that the recited depth range "is not part of the surface defect" as admitted in the specification.

In reply, the Examiner appears to be suggesting that the structurings of the present claims are inevitable defects resulting from manufacture of articles of the type claimed herein and disclosed by Khanarian. However, they are not and Applicants have not disclosed, at page 14 of the specification or elsewhere, that they are.

As Applicants pointed out in the previous response, and maintain, the wedge-shaped surface, along with the end points, as shown in Figure 3A (and 3B) of Khanarian, does not meet the terms of the present claims. Indeed, these wedge-shaped bodies of Khanarian are in intimate contact with each other (column 3, lines 19-24), suggesting that they are each flat.

JP '677 has been relied on for a disclosure of barium sulfate particles. However, JP '677 does not remedy any of the above-discussed deficiencies in Khanarian.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

¹ While the style of the rejection lists Claims 1-18, Claim 19 is included in the discussion of the rejection.

Application No. 10/501,925
Reply to Office Action of January 22, 2008

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Customer Number

22850

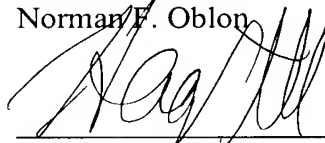
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